

9/11/68

Dear Phil,

Although since seeing you I have intended looking Brandy up again, I've stayed too busy on other things. I have written two more books and conducted a number of field investigations, various researches and other things. Time flies. The poplars are beginning to turn, the bees are sluggish in the morning, and the delayed dawn permits a few more minutes of sleep each day as I try and get a little more rest so I can be less tired and produce more.

I have not had time to get more interested in Kerry. Eventually I will again. But each thing must be evaluated in importance if there is more to do than can be done. He and a friend of his, Dave Lifton, have compelled me to think of them intermittently by a series of stupid and false articles in a kooky west-coast hippie-type paper. Save for these interruptions, my mind had been on other work. One of the books is on the three assassinations, tying them together and introducing more of the suppressed evidence. It is a rather frightening book, detailing those things so like a less violent pre-Hitlerism.

One of the areas of my interest and potential importance is the Cuban angle. You may have read something of this in what I have published. Involved, but the nature and extent of the involvement unclear, are a number of American mercenaries, for the most part inept, violence prone, egotistical men who have trouble fitting properly anywhere. Some of them died rather mysteriously. There was one shot when, according to his fellows, he was mistaken for a wild turkey. Another, an experience swimmer and diver, drowned in a few inches of water.

These boys milked the right for money after the CIA was out. Most of them were of the right, not because of genuine political understanding and persuasion but from ignorance, believing catch-phrases and propaganda. I think of them as the dedicated wrong.

I have met only a couple of them personally. They are not intellectual giants. One, however, was known as the "Professor". He apparently is well-educated and, if my recollection is not flawed, had the reputation of being a homosexual. His name is Dennis Harber, sometimes spelled Harper. He was in the boat from which the diver, Collins, drowned off the Florida keys (they had primitive training camps there). Harber is said to be living in Omaha, or at the very least, in the suburban area. I regret I do not have his address or employment. He is said to be in terror of a bona fide assassin, one Abbas who killed for Trujillo. Why the fear I do not know. Abbas, however, of whom I have known since the mid-50s, is a man who warrants fear. He has been involved in some hairy episodes, has the reputation of being a murderer.

Harber may himself be a dangerous man, I do not know. I have two things in mind, both involving you. First, would you try and locate him and see if he would be willing to talk to you, sitting down before a tape recorder and making a record of everything that might, conceivably, relate to what he knows or suspects of Cuban activities that in turn might be connected with either the assassination of those seemingly in some way or another connected with it. Second, if you are reluctant or do not have the time, would you just ask him if he would be willing to talk to me. I will agree to any reasonable restriction he might place on what he says. I hope he would understand that the man with secrets, whether or not he understands their significance, is the man who has something to fear. He knows much about some of the people in whom there is general interest. If you get talking to him, here are some names: Hall, Howard, Seymour (you should recognize these), Masferrer, Jerry Patrick Hemming, Howard Davis, Collins, Captain Bob Brown, Watley, Steve Wilson, Tom Dunkin, several Buchanans, No Name Key,

Ricardo Davis; the various Cuban groups and American raiders and trainers; of American groups, those of the right, especially the National States Rights Party and any of its members or functionaries; any people he may have met in New Orleans or anything he knows the training camps, activities and personnel there; Oswald or those looking like or represented as him, anywhere; one Devey, in Florida; the Alan Courtney show on WQAM, Miami, CIA personnel, if he is willing to talk of them, and covers-transportations and other; who he thinks may have been to see Sylvia Odio; plots to kill Castro and who involved, for whom; Dr. Fernando Penabaz, who is editor of a publication in Miami called "Insight on the News" (to which Alan Courtney is a contributor).

I wrote the above last night, while I was waiting for a call from a Florida radio station, to which I broadcast for an hour. It is in Kerry's city. He did not call in, did not have any of his pals bait me.

This may sound like a hazardous request. Under certain circumstances it might be. However, I think speaking to him is not. Finding him, which the city directory, if not the phone book, can ~~disclose~~ ^{help}, also is not. If he is forcefully unwilling to speak, do not press it, for that could involve some hazard. He may be that kind of a guy. There is reason to suspect his involvement in the Collins death, which may be murder. But if he knows what you can tell him of me, plus that I know about Abbes, including his operations in Britain, plus that I intend him no harm and sharing his knowledge with me can be a protection for him, perhaps he will be willing to make a record of what he knows. If he does not, I will write him. I hope you will try. It seems possible to me that a poet (and I remind you Byron was a poet and an activist) can establish a rapport with a "professor".

I hope your marriage is a happy one.

By the way, you know Kent Courtney somewhat. Do you know a good way to approach Si? Is there one? Is Alan Courtney a relative? I also have an interest in a man in Florida, with a radio program, of that name.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg